

**From:** John Craven  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/4/01 10:33pm  
**Subject:** Suggestion

To whom it may concern:

The proposed settlement does not prevent Microsoft from continuing its monopoly. It's nothing more than a slap on the wrist. Companies may be given the ability to load other operating system on the boxes they sell, but now that Microsoft is in control of 90%+ of the market, there is no incentive for those sellers to expend much effort to in doing so. It would only cause them more support headaches and costs.

I imagine there are a significant number of users that would love to rid themselves of Microsoft, but cannot since they feel compelled to be compatible with their co-workers around the country/world that use Microsoft's office suite, even if those other workers themselves are wanting the same thing. Kind of like lemmings rushing to the sea :).

Simply put: many people of the country/world are being forced to buy an operating system, when all they really want is to be compatible with a word processor!!!!

So, how about forcing Microsoft to disclosing its file format's for Word, Powerpoint and Excel. These have become de facto standards (read: monopolized) because of their operating system monopoly. By doing this other developers can create office suites that are cheaper, faster and with a different feature set than Microsoft has deemed obligatory. Their file format's could be the start of a new ANSI standard that could then be cussed and discussed by all interested parties. For the good of all, not just Microsoft.

Respectfully yours,  
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